

March 8, 1982

LR 237

states you have the Democrats and the Republicans and they are pretty well organized so that they create an almost investigative force of the other individual or an issue so that they are self-checking. We are a nonpartisan Legislature. Yes, we are influenced by party, we know, but I think we can truly say that this is a nonpartisan Legislature most of the time and so we have a special responsibility as a nonpartisan body to accomplish some of those things that might be accomplished in terms of accountability of a partisan structure, this being one of them. Finally, the Unicameral itself sets up another special situation. In every other state in the United States you have a House of Representatives and that House generally strictly represents their district and they become the speakers or spokesmen for their district and their district interest. The Senate frequently in the other states looks at the whole picture of the state. In Nebraska we only have the one body. We Senators here have to be spokesmen for the state, representatives of the entire state picture as well as district representatives. That is our function by virtue of the fact we only have one house. Now let me just say that the resolution simply sets up the mechanism that we as a Legislature have recognized for looking into the issue. It is not a small issue. It is not small in dollars or probably small in consequences and so I would ask your support for the resolution. I know Senator Lamb has a proposal that we use an existing committee, the Public Works Committee. I have no objections to that. Senator Lamb, as Chairman of the Executive Board, has made it very clear since he has been Chairman that he wishes to support only the existing structure rather than creating new committees. That is up to the Legislature. I personally told him, fine, if that is what you want to do I will support that and then the Public Works Committee can let whoever wants to sit in on the hearings or the study. I have reason to believe that even before this week is out we will have additional incentive as more disclosures are made as to the length and breadth and depth of this very serious problem involving a number of people and involving more than tens of millions, possibly into the hundreds of millions of dollars that I believe it is imperative that we go ahead and get started and get something going.

SENATOR CLARK: First amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have was from Senator Warner. Senator Warner would move to amend LR 237 by striking RESOLVE #4 and insert the following: The committee shall be seven members of the Legislature selected by the Executive Board whose Chairman shall be selected by the Executive Board.

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